

COMMEMORATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RMS "QUEEN MARY"

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 80th Anniversary of the maiden voyage of the RMS *Queen Mary*.

On May 27, 1936, over a quarter million spectators were on hand in Southampton, England to experience the magnificent world debut of the *Queen Mary*. At the time, the *Queen Mary* was the most advanced ship ever built, but its long storied history is what we are truly celebrating this month.

The *Queen Mary* was the grandest ocean liner in the world carrying dignitaries like Prime Minister Winston Churchill, royalty like the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, and Hollywood celebrities like Bob Hope and Clark Gable.

When World War II began, this luxury ocean liner was transformed into a key vessel for our Allied forces. The ship carried over 16,000 American soldiers from New York to Great Britain. It continued operating throughout the war, and due to the *Queen Mary's* high speed it was difficult for German U boats to catch it.

On numerous occasions, the ship carried Prime Minister Winston Churchill across the Atlantic for meetings with our fellow Allied Forces. The ship was a key asset in assuring our ultimate victory.

After our victory in Europe, thousands of our brave soldiers traveled home onboard the *Queen Mary*, and were given a hero's welcome as the vessel returned to American ports.

Today, the RMS *Queen Mary* is proudly docked in Long Beach, California. It serves as a treasured attraction where guests can come aboard and learn more about the history of this extravagant vessel. The ship features a full service hotel and hosts school groups, conventions and tourists from all over the world. To date, the *Queen Mary* has welcomed over 60 million guests.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to help celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the RMS *Queen Mary*. I am proud to represent the City of Long Beach in my district, which has the great honor of having this truly magical vessel permanently docked in its harbor.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SAVE OUR COMMUNITIES FROM RISKY TRAINS ACT OF 2016

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, in light of recent train derailments across the country and ongoing transportation security threats, I rise to introduce the Save Our Community from Risky Trains Act of 2016, which directs the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to find ways to the greatest extent possible to reroute trains that are carrying certain hazardous materials from selected high-threat urban areas, including the District of Columbia. Just this month, sixteen cars of a CSX

freight train derailed in a densely residential neighborhood of the nation's capital, disrupting Metrorail, passenger rail, and freight rail service and putting families at risk. Among the derailed freight train cars, cars carrying sodium hydroxide, calcium chloride and ethanol—which is flammable and led to a Metrorail shutdown—spilled. The neighborhood was lucky that there were no injuries, but the continuing threat to the safety and security of urban communities is clear.

In 2007, the House passed the Rail and Public Transportation Security Act of 2007, which included my amendment to protect the District and similar communities nationwide from dangerous hazardous material shipments by mandating that federal regulations and penalties be developed to increase security and safety for the shipment of these materials through high-threat urban areas. My amendment was not included in the final bill signed into law. While freight companies have begun working with DOT to voluntarily reroute the shipment of certain materials that are toxic by inhalation, poisonous by inhalation, or explosive from these communities, there is no federal law requiring them to reroute the materials.

This bill would require the DOT Secretary to issue regulations to require enhanced security measures for shipments of security-sensitive materials. The bill also requires railroad carriers to use the most secure route and storage pattern to avoid moving certain hazardous materials by rail through selected high-threat urban areas. These security sensitive materials include a highway route-controlled quantity of a Class 7 (radioactive) material; more than 25 kilograms of a division 1.1, 1.2, or 1.3 explosive; more than one liter per package of a material poisonous by inhalation; shipment in other than a bulk packaging of 2,268 kilograms gross weight or more of one class of hazardous materials for which placarding of a vehicle, rail car, or freight container is required; and select agents or toxins regulated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

High-profile derailments in North Dakota, Virginia, West Virginia, and Canada demonstrate the need for this legislation. Ethanol, which is flammable, still travels through big cities, and even within a few blocks of the U.S. Capitol. This bill will protect our communities from the risk created by trains carrying hazardous materials.

I urge support for this bill.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL JUBILEE DAY

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the very important Supreme Court decision in Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine et al. v. Michaux et al. that was handed down on June 3, 1929. The Court's unanimous decision in this case affirmed the legal right of African Americans to participate in fraternal orders similar to those of Caucasian Americans. I also rise to celebrate the second annual Jubilee Day Celebration that will occur here in Washington, D.C.

on June 5, 2016 to honor the 86th anniversary of this historic decision.

The struggle for legal clarity on whether or not African Americans could continue to practice the tenants and principles of the Mystic Shrine began in 1914 after a lawsuit was filed in Georgia and a judge granted an injunction, barring African Americans from using the names, titles, emblems, and regalia that were also used by Caucasian Shriners in the state. Several more lawsuits and injunctions in other states further limited African Americans abilities to participate in Masonic fraternities until a case in 1918 expanded these restrictions nationwide. In 1926, the Texas Supreme Court affirmed a lower court's decision that barred African Americans from practicing Masonry in state and that decision was appealed to the United States Supreme Court. Finally, after 15 long years of fighting a costly legal battle for the right to exist and to legally practice, the United States Supreme Court handed down a unanimous decision on June 3, 1929, granting African Americans the right to continue their participation in Masonic fraternities similar to those of Caucasian Americans.

Mr. Speaker, we are all aware of the tremendous contributions made by our local Prince Hall Shriners to make our communities better places. These selfless individuals give countless hours of service to our communities, provide generous college scholarships to economically disadvantaged youth, and contribute significant funds to hospitals and research institutions. All of these things would not be possible without the Supreme Court's decision in June 1929.

Mr. Speaker, even after the Supreme Court's decision in 1929, the struggle for equality and recognition continued, and it continues in many places to this day. In my home state of North Carolina, it took until November 21, 2008 for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina and Jurisdictions, Inc. to gain the acceptance and official recognition of their white Masonic brothers of the Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 41st Imperial Potentate of Prince Hall Shriners, Rochelle J. Julian, in commemorating the 86th anniversary of the Supreme Court's unanimous decision in Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine et al. v. Michaux et al, and in wishing a joyous celebration to everyone that will be in Washington, D.C. participating in the festivities for the National Jubilee Day Celebration.

BRITTANY VALENCIA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Brittany Valencia for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Brittany Valencia is a 12th grader at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Brittany Valencia is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and